

NUM 6 2000

Barbara Escamilla  
4420 South Ave  
Toledo Ohio 43615

Please send me the  
Video Description

Docket no 99-339

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NOV 13 2000

MAIL ROOM

Docket No. 99-339

Note in your letter that you are submitting comment  
"IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR  
RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON  
VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

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NOV 13 2000  
FEDERAL COURT

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*Barbara Escamilla*

ations and by the National Federation of the Blind.

strongly urge all who read this letter and care about  
o description for television programming to write to  
FCC, expressing your support for video description  
your appreciation for the FCC's July vote.

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NOV 13 2000

Dear Magalie Salas,

I was not aware of the Service of Video Description. I am legally blind and find I can no longer enjoy T.V. as I once did. Please, do not allow anyone to do away with this help. I am strongly submitting comments, in opposition, to petitioners for Re-consideration of the Reported Order on Video Description".

Hopefully, I will soon have access to this service.

Anyone who wishes to abolish this service should spend one evening trying to

understand a program with  
a dark, sheer scary tied over  
their eyes. That may provoke  
you to change a negative vote  
into a yes vote to extend the  
service by April of 2002.

Thank you,  
Harold J. Dunn

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ELLEN S. EVANS  
729 GULF COAST BLVD  
VENICE, FL 334292

11/6/2000

MAGALIE SALAS, SEC'y.  
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
445 12TH ST., SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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NOV 13 2000

RE: DOCKET No. 99-339

FCC MAIL ROOM

DEAR MS. SALAS:

I AM LEGALLY BLIND, LIVING ALONE  
AND NEED THE VIDEO DESCRIPTION FROM  
THE WEATHER IN CASE OF SEVERE STORMS,  
ALSO CURRENT NEWS

IN REFERENCE TO THE FCC'S DECISION  
TO PROVIDE VIDEO DESCRIPTION FOR TELEVISION  
PROGRAMMING, PLEASE STAND FIRM ON YOUR  
DECISION TO PROVIDE VIDEO DESCRIPTION  
FOR THE USUALLY IMPAIRED AND THE BLIND.

I UNDERSTAND THE TELEVISION MEDIA IS  
TRYING TO GET THIS RULING OVERTURNED.  
I HOPE THEY ARE UNSUCCESSFUL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

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SINCERELY,  
Ellen S. Evans.

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Jean Hackworth  
4 Captain's Landing  
Tiburon, California 94920

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NOV 13 2000

9 Nov., 2000

REC'D 11/13/00

Margalie Sales, Sec.

FCC 445 12th St. SW

Wash., D.C. 20554

Dear Ms Sales,

I am writing to oppose the views  
of petitioners who recommend  
reconsidering the 7-21-200 order  
requiring video description,  
Docket # 99-399.

I am legally blind and benefit  
greatly from video description.

Sincerely,

Jean Hackworth

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NOV 13 2000 Frank D. Helman

54290 Pebblestone Lane

FCC MAIL ROOM Elkhart, IN 46514-4878

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(219) 262-5430

e-mail: fdhelman@aol.com

Fax: (219) 266-5046

November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Docket No. 99-339,

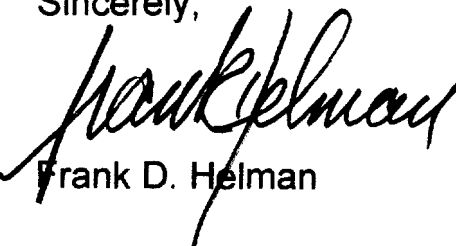
Dear Secretary Salas:

I am writing to express my appreciation to the commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the television networks to begin providing video descriptions for television programming. As a person suffering from macular degeneration and who will undoubtedly lose most vision in the future, I believe that it is very important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have a means of knowing what is happening on the television.

I am in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. This is necessary for visually impaired persons. I am of the understanding that the petitioners have not provided any new information that the FCC has not already considered in making their decision.

Again, thank you for your enlightened decision,

Sincerely,

  
Frank D. Helman

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

OFFICIAL FILINGS

NOVEMBER 5, 2000

Commissioners of the F C C,

I am writing this letter to you for several reasons. The first being to extend my sincere appreciation to all the Commissioners of the F C C for their vote requiring the networks to begin providing the extremely necessary and essential service to all people who are vision impaired and blind and who still enjoy the entertainment and essential information that television gives.

I have been enjoying narrated movies for years now since I really can't perceive whats going on without it Or someone talking me thru it thus eliminating me going to the movies anymore . My children are now grown and gone so unless its news time or court I really don't even turn on t.v. at all. There are too many shows ~~that are action packed and unless one has reasonably good vision it is impossible to tell what it is going on.~~ Since I heard of the news concerning the descriptive video in April of 2002 I have been ecstatic

Last but certainly not least I want to submit my comments concerning DOCKET NO. 99-339.

I am in total and complete "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully  
Susan Dunham

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November 7, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

RE: Docket 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

We are a Support Group for Visually Impaired and Blind individuals in Hot Springs, Arkansas. As a group, we were excited about the agreement to include audio description with TV programming beginning in April 2002.

We understand that you have received "Petitions to Reconsider" the audio description on TV programming. This group in Hot Springs urges you to please leave your decision to stand as is, so that we may receive the audio description in April 2002.

Sincerely,

Hot Springs Support Group for Blind and Visually Impaired

*R. W. Meyer*  
*Luis Meyer*  
*Barbara Wolford*  
*Carl & Pearl Faulkner*  
*Bernice Maxwell*  
*Vera Washington*  
*Linda M. Holman*  
*Walter E. Johnson*  
*Anne Honea*  
*Margaret*

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November 7, 2000

NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

I/m writing

I'm writing in regard to the petitions that were filed against the video description service.

I so much appreciate the commissioners of the Fcc for their courageous vote, requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service, to people who are blind and visually impaired.

It is important for someone who ~~ixx~~ cannot or is visually impaired to have an alternate means=i.e.- video discription. And knowing what's happening on the television. It really helps so much. Especially if you're by yourself.. I'm totally blind, and i know that i sure could use it. I would like to be able to turn on my television in April 2002, and be able to have video description. Service.

I feel a that this is important to blind and visually impaired people. and the petisioners have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time of the Fccc's ruling.

I'm submitting comments in opposition to petisioners for reconsideration of the order video descritption.

docket no. 99\*339

Sincerely  
Mary Jeabne Brown

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1023 Scott Unit F  
Little Rock, AR 72202  
Phone: (501) 372-4850

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FCC MAIL ROOM

November 7, 2000

Re: Docket No. <sup>339</sup>~~99-309~~, "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RE-  
CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON OF VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

I wish to thank and express my profound appreciation to the  
Commissioners for their courageous and progressive votes to implement  
Video Description on commercial networks by April, 2002.

While watching (actually only listening to) movies and other  
television programs, I am acutely aware that I miss the details  
that only be ascertained by visual observation. The problem: I  
do not know what information was not perceived.

I have had limited experience with Video Description On PBS and  
movies on video and have found the service extremely beneficial.

In addition, Descriptive Video will also benefit the sighted  
and hearing viewers just as Closed Captioning has helped them.

Regarding an organization of blind persons who may be asking  
for reconsideration, it is my belief that most of the members want  
Descriptive video. However, once again the members are enamored by  
their misguided leaders that the members will ask "How High" when  
commanded to so.

Please continue to pursue the course of implementing Descriptive  
service as soon as possible.

Thanks again for this bold decision.

Sincerely

Dick Seifert

*Dick Seifert*

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# Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.



Virginia Affiliate of the American Council of the Blind

November 9, 2000

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms Salas:

**RE: Docket No. 99-339**

On July 21, 2000, The Federal Communication Commission took courageous and commendable action which will require television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers throughout the United States. Countless numbers of blind and visually impaired individuals are already looking forward to this new access to information, education, and recreational opportunities.

Recently it has come to our attention that "petitions to reconsider" have been submitted by television, cable, the motion picture industry and by the National Federation of the Blind. This is a most unfortunate action on the part of the petitioners especially the National Federation of the Blind which claims to be a voice of blind and visually impaired individuals, but actually represents only a small percentage of this segment of America's disabled citizens.

We urge you to uphold the July 21<sup>st</sup> action so that blind and visually impaired persons can have the benefit provided by the video description and will significantly enrich their lives. We might point out that deaf citizens have had, for many years, the access to a parallel service which enables them to increase their access to information just as your July 21<sup>st</sup> action will provide for blind and visually impaired persons.

Currently some visually impaired persons have video description to a limited number of motion pictures and a few programs televised on public television stations. They, therefore, are keenly aware of the additional pleasure which will accrue to them as a result of your action cited above.

Again, we commend the FCC for this important progressive step to enrich the lives of blind and visually impaired persons and strongly urge that the "petition for reconsideration" be rejected. We point out to you that the petitioners have provided no new or additional information to justify their position.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Ward, Past President

RJW:pjs

cc: C. Crawford  
B. Charlson

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NOV 13 2000

FIC 014700\*\*

Shelley Houghtaling  
300 Carriage Way  
Davison, MI 48423

November 9, 2000

Docket NO. 99-339

Dear Magalie Salas:

The purpose of this letter is to express my great appreciation for the Federal Communication Commission's decision on requiring television networks to provide video descriptive services for blind and visually impaired persons. I am writing this letter in opposition to petitions for reconsideration of the reported order on video descriptive services.

As a blind individual it is crucial to have an alternate form of watching television. At this time there are many television programs that I cannot enjoy simply because I cannot see what's happening on the screen. This makes it difficult to understand some shows that have a lot of visual effects. Video description is no different than the closed captioning service that has been provided to deaf persons for several years. Blind persons have been long awaiting this service and are looking forward to it in the near future. The video descriptive service would allow blind persons to have equal access to television programs which I believe should be one of our equal rights.

The petitioners have not been able to provide any new information regarding this decision that was not already known at the time that this ruling was made. Therefore, I feel that the original decision should not be changed.

Sincerely,

Shelley Houghtaling

*Shelley Houghtaling*

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

17 Fort George Hill  
New York, NY 10040  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am in total opposition to the Petition for reconsideration of the reported order on Video Description, under the docket number above.

I am a staff executive with a religious organization that prides itself on being the founding agency of The Jewish Braille Institute. As such, we are deeply concerned at the possibility of a reconsideration of an FCC decision which affects the welfare and happiness of the blind and visually impaired.

I strongly urge you not to undertake this reconsideration.

Very truly yours,

  
Rita Guralnick

RG/jm

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NOV 13 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

November 3, 2000

Dear Ms. Salas,

This is regarding Docket # 99-339.

This letter is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description service for people who are blind or visually impaired.

It is very important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. Words cannot express how much video description means to me. It has allowed me to enjoy movies and plays with family and friends and given me a real feeling of independence. I have been looking forward to turning on my television in April, 2002, to enjoy shows with family and friends and to use the video description to help understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I want to be able to enjoy the same programming as others.

Sincerely,

Rita Kersh

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This is one of only a few types of  
entertainment that means a lot to me.



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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Arthur L. Miles  
Trackside I  
Robin Circle 4-EI  
Johnstown, N.Y. 12095

November 1, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for your courageous decision of July, 2000, Docket No. 99-339, that would require television networks to implement descriptive T.V. of network programming, beginning in April, 2002.

Petitions submitted by networks, cable systems, etc. to request that the July ruling be overturned, should be denied. There is no new information at this time that was not known at the time of your July ruling.

I have seen a few described movies and I find the descriptions do enhance T.V. pleasure and improve access to the action.

Descriptive video will be another step along the road to making T.V. entertainment and information, accessible to blind and visually impaired Americans. We of the blind community will look forward to descriptive T.V. in April, 2002 and will be collectively thankful for it.

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur L. Miles*

Arthur L. Miles

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cSylvie Kashdan  
1707 N.W. 58th St. #3  
Seattle, WA 98107

November 7, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Official Docket No. 99-339  
Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Dear FCC commissioners:

I would like to express my appreciation for your July ruling requiring television networks to begin providing video descriptions of the key visual elements in television programming starting in April, 2002. I am a blind person who lost vision in mid life. I very much miss being able to enjoy the visual aspects of quality films, plays scientific, arts and news programs because of my vision loss. If I do not know what visual images are being presented, it is much more difficult for me to follow the presentations. Video description makes it possible for me to enjoy and understand my favorite films, plays and other programs again. Although I am able to obtain some films with video description from the library, they are few and far between, and do not generally include the high quality material I am most interested in. I therefore have been looking forward to April, 2002, when I could simply turn on my television set and utilize the video descriptions to understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I have spoken to many other blind and visually impaired people who are similarly excited about the opportunities that video description opens up for us.

I understand that you have received petitions asking you to reconsider your ruling. However, I urge you to take into account that these petitions do not provide any new information which was unknown to you at the time of your decision. I hope you will not disappoint those of us who have been looking forward to more fully participating in the cultural life of our country.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvie Kashdan

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November 8, 2000

Magalie Salos, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear FCC Commissioners:

This letter is to express my request that you stand firm with your decision to make Descriptive Video Service (DVS) available beginning April of 2000.

I am blind and have been blind since March of 1997. I used to enjoy watching television for both entertainment and news. The TV is seldom on anymore because it is such a visual medium. I have been exposed to DVS programming through public television and DVS video tapes through the Talking Book program. I can tell you from first hand experience that the DVS format makes a world of positive difference.

I believe that this is an quality of life and equal access issue for the visually impaired. In addition, DVS makes TV a better venue for a broader audience. I would think it a benefit to Networks and television stations to broaden their audience, not restrict it.

I urge to stand firm on your courageous decision to require DVS. I believe it to be in the long term interest of the visually impaired as well as the television broadcasters of this Country and all Americans.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Hugel

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Robert Barnes  
P.O. Box 17138  
Seattle, WA 98107

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NOV 13 2000  
FCC MAIL ROOM

November 7, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Official Docket No. 99-339

Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Dear FCC commissioners:

I have been severely visually impaired all my life. I have a great deal of difficulty seeing displays on a TV screen. If I do not know what visual images are being presented, it is much more difficult for me to follow the presentations. I would like to express my appreciation for your July ruling requiring television networks to begin providing video descriptions of the key visual elements in television programming starting in April, 2002.

Video description makes it possible for me to enjoy and understand my favorite films, plays and other programs. Although I am able to obtain some films with video description from the library, they are few and far between, and do not generally include the high quality material I am most interested in. I therefore have been looking forward to April, 2002, when I could simply turn on my television set and utilize the video descriptions to understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I have spoken to many other blind and visually impaired people who are similarly excited about the opportunities that video description opens up for us.

I understand that you have received petitions asking you to reconsider your ruling. However, I urge you to take into account that these petitions do not provide any new information which was unknown to you at the time of your decision. I hope you will not disappoint those of us who have been looking forward to more fully participating in the cultural life of our country.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert Barnes

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November 6, 2000

Magerie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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NOV 13 2000

FEDERAL ROOM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sending these comments in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description regarding docket No. 99-339.

I am writing to tell you how much I appreciate the courage and concern you have for those who are blind or visually impaired in taking a stand and making your recent ruling requiring TV stations to provide video description.

Video description I believe is essential to being able to gain full understanding of programs being viewed. I have had the experience of viewing described videos and found that there were essential pieces of the movie I would have not have known if not for the description. For example, I had viewed the movie "Field of Dreams" without video description alone and had no idea that there was a corn field that the baseball players and others faded into. This was an essential piece of the movie that needed to be known in order to have greater understanding of the meaning being conveyed by the producer.

This also goes for any other movie or television show being shown where the non-verbal cues are essential to the plot of the story. For example, in mystery programs or other similar programming.

It is also essential in being able to inform consumers of products. It is very frustrating to view a product being advertised that I may be interested in or want to purchase and be told to call or write to a number or address printed on the screen.

Without auditory accessibility I am not able to access entertainment that others have access to such as digital cable television or satellite dish networks.

I find it essential for me to be aware of weather warnings posted or news items, which need description as they are flashed on the screen without auditory explanation.

Please keep your recent ruling intact? Do not change it because of pressure from the people who state it is not essential because of a difference in philosophy regarding the needs of the blind or would cost them more to provide these services. The deaf have had closed captioning for quite some time. We too need these advances. The information being presented to you has been presented prior to the ruling and there is really nothing new. I urge you to uphold the ruling made in July 2000.

With sincere appreciation for your efforts,

Sincerely yours,

Rosemarie Facilla

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99-339

Dear Sir:

FCC MAIL ROOM

We appreciate what the commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring networks to begin providing television that is accessible for blind and visually impaired citizens. Our visually impaired friends in North Carolina have enjoyed the video description and have been looking forward to April, 2002, to enjoy television shows with their families and friends and to use the video description to help them understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Being a retired teacher from the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, N.C. I am now president of the Sir Walter Lioness Club and of the Governor Morehead History and Archives Society. It is very important to the groups I represent to make this video description attainable for the visually impaired.

I am submitting these comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on Video

Description. (Docket No. 00-339)

~~XXXX~~

November 9, 2000

601 Princeton St.  
Raleigh, NC. 27609

Sincerely,

Lois Moffett

Lois Moffett  
ret. teacher, G.M.S

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

3020 N. 36<sup>th</sup> Street Apt G 308  
Phoenix, AZ 85018  
November 6, 2000

99-339

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Salas

I am writing concerning "Petitions to Reconsider" you have received regarding your July ruling which would require television networks to begin providing video description of the key elements of television programming for the blind and visually impaired by April 2002

The July ruling was a tremendous step forward for the blind and is much appreciated by those of us who are blind. Try closing your eyes for a period of time when you watch your favorite TV program drama or sitcom and realized how much the blind are missing.

It is my understanding that the Petitions received by you present no new information that was not available when the July ruling was made. I hope you reject the Petitions and proceed with the changes for april 2002.

This letter is being typed for me by a volunteer who reads my mail and handles my checkbook.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Protas*

Ruth Protas

Docket No. 99-339

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6426 Bancroft Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo.  
November 8, 2000

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NOV 13 2000  
FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
405 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petitions to reconsider your July 21st ruling, (Docket  
Number 99-339).

Please accept my sincere thanks to you whose vote has provided me with descriptive television programming and descriptive video service. After all these years of unexplained noise and mystifying silence I find it gratifying to know what is being shown on the TV or movie screen.

Please do not reconsider your July ruling. The petitioners for reconsideration have not provided any new information which was not known at the time the FCC reached its decision.

Once again I thank you for your concern and the action you have taken to benefit those of us who are blind or visually impaired.

Very truly yours,

Zada Albee

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Alfred Gasper  
22 Myrtle St.  
Watertown MA 02472  
November 8, 2000

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Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

I would like to express my thanks for the FCC's original ruling in favor of descriptive video . I do not feel that there has been any new information to suggest that it not be implemented as voted on by the FCC .

I am a person with some vision and am able to see some of what is shown. I did not realize how much I was missing until I viewed a movie with DVS .

It is hard for me to understand how any consumer group for the blind could be in opposition to this technology that will make for enjoyment and information.

Again I urge the Commission to stay with their original and correct vote . Having DVS available on prime time and major networks will make for viewing on the same footing as all our family members.

Sincerely,  
Alfred Gasper

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Jan M. Stanko  
26 Greenleaf Circle  
Asheville, NC 28804  
9 November 2000

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket Number 99-339

Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration  
of the reported order on video description.

Dear Ms. Salas:

Thanks to the FCC for their July decision requiring television networks to provide audio descriptions of programs by April 2002. Video description is a necessary service which is needed immediately. I have been enjoying described video tapes which I borrow from the North Carolina State Library for the Blind. I have been delighted to have the few movies or plays described as I watch them on television. Words of description complement the action and complete the understanding of what would otherwise be half messages resulting from incomplete information. I am certain that the ADA law intends to create an all inclusive environment, which dictates that network programming needs to be audio descriptive as well. You can easily imagine the tension and annoyance created when a sighted person takes the time to describe a scene to a visually impaired person while simultaneously missing what comes up next. The description needs to be included in the original material.

We also need descriptive video service for informational programs such as the news. Emergency alerts scrolled across the bottom of a screen are fine for sighted persons and the hearing impaired, but after being alerted by the audio signal, a visually impaired person becomes frustrated because they cannot determine the nature of the alert.

Since the facts prevailing at the time of the original decision have not changed and there is an immediate need for descriptive audio, I see no reason for delaying the implementation. The networks should provide this service as soon as possible. It is my hope that this will be done long before April 2000.

Sincerely,



Jan M. Stanko

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1350 East Indianola AVE.  
Phoenix, AZ 85014  
November 6, 2000

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th st, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear MS. Salas

I am writing this letter concerning docket no. #99-339, in opposition to petitions for Reconsideration of the required order on video description. I understand that the petitions present nothing new that hasn't already been presented.

I am blind and really enjoy the descriptive video. I have seen three different videos both with and without the descriptive video and the descriptive video made them all much more enjoyable. I realized just how much I was missing without it. I was looking forward to seeing this option in April of 2002 and now fear I will lose it.

Please don't change your July vote now! We have closed captioning for the hearing impaired, why not descriptive video for the blind and visually impaired.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Cheryl Kells

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November 3, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE  
REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

Official Filings – Docket No. 99-339

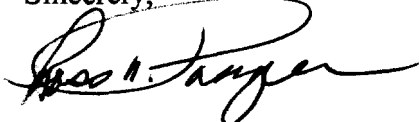
Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing you this letter to first to express my appreciation for your courageous vote requiring the television networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired such as myself.

Secondly, I believe it is important to have this alternate means for knowing what is happening on the television. So often television programs or movies are discussed in our lives. I have been looking forward to turning on my TV in April 2002, to enjoy television shows and movies with my family and friends and to use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Lastly, this video description is a valuable tool. The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider. I urge you to let this ruling stand.

Sincerely,



Ross N. Pangere

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68 Gilman Street  
Hartford, CT 06114-2536

November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339  
Comments in ~~Opposition~~ to Petitioners for Reconsideration  
of the Reported Order on Video Description.

Dear Secretary Salas:

As I understand it, the FCC ruled on July 21, 2000 to require television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002. I am writing in support of this FCC ruling and in opposition to the petition for reconsideration submitted jointly by television, cable and motion picture associations and the National Federation of the Blind.

As I understand it, the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC made its July 21st ruling supporting video descriptive captioning. I am blind and know blind members of the National Federation of the Blind who love the descriptive video services found in some videos and tv programs and it is difficult to juxtapose these members' usage with their organizational stance.

Because I have a busy life style and don't like the calibre of many tv programs, my tv usage these days is low. However, many blind people watch tv and videos by listening to the dialogue and music and drawing insight on the on going action from the general ambiance. Instances exist throughout history of "exceptional" blind people overcoming whatever odds faced them while the majority fell to the level forced upon them by their societies and circumstances. We have the resources in this society to offer descriptive video captioning to greatly augment blind people's understanding of and appreciation for our society and our world.


Blindness is no respector of class, age, race, belief system, culture or society. With the addition of descriptive video captioning, many people continue to enjoy news and entertainment with a minimum of transition from a sighted to a blind

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perspective.

I would like to express my appreciation to the FCC for its July 21st ruling requiring the networks to begin providing descriptive video captioning to the blind and visually impaired.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely, 

Cheree Heppe  
Member, American Council of the Blind

c.c.      c. Crawford